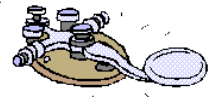




Long Path



Volume 21 Issue 2

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

October, 2003



President's Word

Greetings everybody!

First and certainly foremost, I would like to apologize for last month's presentation. It lacked audio commentary and was a little dry but then along came Ken (**W8LU**) and Uli (**DL????**) to the rescue. I must say it was much appreciated and turned a disaster into a very nice meeting. I gotta say those guys in the video sure take contesting seriously. Uli should hook up with them as he is a very good CW op.

The October and November meetings are both spoken for so I am off the hook 'till next year. Phew!

The October meeting will feature **NE8Z** and here is an excerpt from the recent e-mail he sent along:

"LU/NE8Z, PY5/NE8Z and CX/NE8Z including visits with LU1ZA,, LU4DXU, LU6EF, LU6ETB and LU4AA. Also, a trip to Iguazu Falls - absolutely spectacular (see the movie "The Mission" with Robert Deniro) I will also show slides and a video of a trip to Colonia Uruguay."

I am sure it will be another excellent presentation because the November meeting will provide more of the

same. Rick will be putting on a presentation of the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico and this one will be one that you won't want to miss.

If you haven't already paid your dues for the new year, check with our Treasurer **N8CQA** at the next meeting or send them via US mail along with the renewal coupon attached to this issue of the *Long Path*.

Till next month, 73 and good DXing

K8SIX, President



Ken's Travels

W8LU will be joining a group of German Operators for a Multi-Multi operation from Sardinia (ISØ) for the CQ World-Wide SSB Contest in October. Later, in November, **W8LU** will join the **CT9L** team operating from Maderia Island again this year. They will operate in the M2 Class.

W8LU will also operate from both locations before and after the contest signing his home call operating portable.

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## Rohn Gone?

Rohn Industries, Inc. and its five subsidiaries has voluntarily filed petitions for Chapter 11 relief in the United States Bankruptcy Court on September 16, 2003. Rohn still retains its assets and properties and will continue to operate its business. However, Rohn is seeking to dispose of its assets to a third party with discussions ongoing.

A number of reasons were cited for the Company's problems including

## SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

*President:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*Vice-president:* John Millet, **K8JM**

*Treasurer:* Buck Switzer, **N8CQA**

*Secretary:* Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

*Director:* Ted Pauck, **K8NA**

*Web Site Editor:* Ken Schang, **W8LU**

*DXCC Checker:* Bill Jones, **N8KF**

*DXCC Checker:* S.Arnett, **AC8W**

*VUCC Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*CQ Checker:* Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

*CQ Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*Program Chairman:* Vacant

*LP Publisher:* Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

competition with wireless and fiber optic communications, engineering bottlenecks in new product development and a general decline in the economy.

Rohn has manufacturing operations in Illinois, Indiana and Mexico City. Beside towers and related equipment, the Company provides design and construction services.

*Above item courtesy of K8NA*

### Six Meter DXCC

Chris Burger **ZS6EZ** has an interesting web site. He has managed to collect most of the Six Meter DXCC members into one place. His list includes call sign, certificate number, total countries and date of issue.

The first ten stations to qualify in order of issue include:

| <u>Call Sign</u> | <u>Current Total</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>K5FF</b>      | 125                  |
| <b>W5FF</b>      | 126                  |
| <b>VE1YX</b>     | 141                  |
| <b>JA4MBM</b>    | 201                  |
| <b>JA1BK</b>     | 202                  |
| <b>W1RA</b>      | 100+                 |
| <b>K5CM</b>      | 100+                 |
| <b>K8WKZ</b>     | 118                  |
| <b>K4CKS</b>     | 133                  |
| <b>K1SIX</b>     | 131                  |

The first Michigan Station to reach the century mark was **K8WKZ**, now a Silent Key as is his son **N8NQS** who, like his father was very active on Six Meters. **SV1DH** is the top player with 215 followed by **ON4ANT** and **PY5CC** tied at 213. Too bad cross-band QSOs don't count (28/50 mHz). In the 1970s and early 80s, many European stations were worked cross-band by this writer but never worked otherwise when the Six Meter Band became available to Europeans!

Check out this site:<http://ZS6Z.za.org/lists/dxcc-6m.txt> for more details.

### W8GF

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CW Sub-Bands

Recently, this writer wrote to Dave Sumner, **K1ZZ**, General Manager of the ARRL to inquire about the Leagues position on our CW sub-bands now that proving Morse skill is no longer required by a number of countries. Here is his reply:

"Gerald, you're asking me to speculate on what future Board policy might be. I can't do that with any degree of specificity.

"The ARRL Board members, a number of whom are active CW operators themselves, understand the concern you have raised. I'm confident they will do what's necessary to protect CW operations.

"Specifically, with regard to 40 meters, the problem arises because there is only 100 kHz that is useable during high-activity evening hours. A phrase that we used in arguing successfully for a shift in the broadcasting band in Regions 1 and 3 is that the existing situation "defies rational band planning."

"By the way, much of the SSB operation in the CW bands that I hear, and that is reported to the ARRL and IARU, is actually by unlicensed operators. This is a large and growing problem in much of the world."

73,
Dave Sumner, **K1ZZ**

Jim Weaver, **K8JE** our Great Lakes Division Director followed with these comments:

"Dave Sumner forwarded your inquiry to him on to me. Although Dave has very adequately answered your question, I'll put a bit more flesh around it.

"First, please understand that Dave does not make ARRL policy. He is a tremendous implementer of this policy, once it has been set by the Board, as evidenced by what can considered his personal success with the 40 M cleanup effort he engineered at the last World Radio Conference of governments. He is indispensable to ARRL as an individual can be. If you want to learn what existing policy is, it is legitimate to ask Dave. If you want to learn what Board policy is going to be, you will need to join me in looking for a truly effective crystal ball.

"Having said the above, I expect I and the 14 other Directors who make up the Board will review existing policy on CW at our January Board of Directors Meeting and will determine if this policy should change or remain as it is now. In determining my position, I will need to know the details of any proposals to change this policy, to have as much insight as possible into the degree of implacability of FCC toward code testing, as much knowledge as possible of the results of any recent changes in other countries toward code testing and the position of ARRL members in the Great Lakes Division. As to the latter need, it is the reason I polled every Division member who had signed up to receive my periodic e-mail newsletter via the Members Only page of the ARRL web site. I hop you participated in this poll. The objective of the Board will be to do what is best for Amateur Radio.

"FYI, current Board position is to support the continuation of Morse testing by the FCC

"As to CW, I am primarily a CW operator. I am of the old 20 wpm Extra

Class school and enjoy CW very much. On the other hand, do I believe Amateur Radio will end if the CW testing requirement is eliminated? Definitely not! Do I believe that CW will disappear if the CW testing requirement is eliminated? Again, definitely not.

"What do I believe is currently the greatest threat to the health and survivability of Amateur Radio? It is Broadband over Power Lines. This, too, has been covered very thoroughly in my periodic letters to Division members. I hope you responded to my request to provide comments to the FCC on this measure which more surely than anything will damage if not destroy Amateur Radio if it is approved in its current form.

"Tnx, for taking time to read this note. Tnx for your interest in Amateur Radio. Feel free to contact me any time you wish."

73, GL,

Jim, **K8JE**

After reading this, you are free to draw your own conclusions. I am not convinced that our CW sub-bands will survive even in the short term. If you have strong feelings about our CW sub-bands, you can voice your opinions with our GL Director, **K8JE**.

W8GF

Michigan Convention

The Michigan Section Convention takes place October 31 in Holland and a Ham Swap follows on November 1, 2003. A dinner banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn. The guest speaker will be Rosalie White, K1STO Field and Services Manager from ARRL

Headquarters. The usual Wouff Hong event will be included after dinner.

For more details check: <http://www.concentric.net/~ka8ykk/state/htm>. Sandy Mondro, **KG8HM** is the Affiliated Club Coordinator.

DX Prospects

You don't need a degree in Celestial Mechanics to realize that tough times are ahead for the die-hard DXer. Solar flux values have been sinking like the Russian Ruble and the worse part is that this will continue for the next several years! On top of that, is a continuation of band-killing emissions from Ole Sol which drives the "A" and "K" indices out of sight and further diminishes HF propagation. On the plus side is the prospect of improved low-band propagation once we are past unsettled solar conditions. When will this be? More than likely within the next year or so.

Several interesting DXpeditions are scheduled for the fall months. FR/E (Europa, AF-009) will be activated during the CQ WW CW Contest period. A team of eight French operators plan to be on all bands between 6 and 160 meters. SSB and RTTY will be part of the operation.

Annobon Island (**3CØ**) will be activated by a group of Spanish Ops plus **DJ9ZB**. Modes will include SSB, CW and RTTY on all bands from 6 thru 160 meters. This operation will continue through October 10.

Peter I (**3YØ/P**) is scheduled during the early weeks of January, 2004 to be activated by a group of USA hams including **KØIR** and **K4UEE**. This will be a major operation and includes an international team of experienced operators. SSB, CW and RTTY will be included during their three week stay. Skilled

operators are sought to be included in their cast. Interested? Contact **K4UEE** at: k4uee@arrl.net for more details.

W8GF

.160 Meter QSY

Many 160 Meter operators here in our area find **W1AW** Morse transmissions useful in determining low band propagation as well as copying ARRL Bulletins and code practice. Effective Monday, September 29, **W1AW** will shift its frequency from 1818 kHz where it has been since 1982 to 1817.5 kHz. This change is being made to bring the 160 Meter transmission frequency in line with other **W1AW** operating frequencies. Also, it may help reduce broadcast band interference since these birdies and harmonics tend to be on even integers. As sunspot minimum approaches, night-time propagation to the east coast may not be possible at times even on 80 meters. Thus, 160 may be the only game in town. Phone bulletins will remain on 1855 kHz.

W8GF



DUES, DUES, DUES

If you haven't already paid up, please contact Treasurer **N8CQA** and clear your account!

More BPL

Following item has been excerpted from the ARRL Letter Dated 09/27/2003

It provides a pretty good idea of what we are up against regarding BPL! This is a very serious matter as you can readily see. The sort of mentality we are dealing with seems irrational. Kathleen Q. Abernathy sits on the commission and obviously has very little knowledge of her job function. One can only listen to her ideas and wonder how in the world she manages to hang on there!

==>ARRL REBUKES FCC COMMISSIONER'S "BROADBAND NIRVANA" REMARKS

The ARRL has strongly objected to FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy's suggestion that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology will contribute to what she described as "broadband Nirvana." Addressing the United Powerline Council's annual conference September 22 in Arlington, Virginia, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and recommended a combination of regulatory restraint and the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules as steps along the "path to Enlightenment," as she put it. In a terse response faxed September 25 on behalf of the League's 155,000 members, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted that Abernathy overlooked some significant issues in her Nirvana analogy.

"Nightmare is more like it," Sumner declared. "The technical showings submitted by the ARRL and others in response to the Commission's Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket No. 03-104 clearly establish that BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution. It cannot be implemented without causing harmful interference to over-the-air radio services."

Sumner told Abernathy that while BPL industry groups, such as the one she addressed this week, prefer to deny the evidence, the FCC is obliged to work to a higher standard.

In its comments in response to the FCC NOI, the League characterized BPL as "a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions" and said the Commission's Part 15 rules "should be modified so as to prevent interference to users of the HF and low VHF spectrum" from the outset.

Abernathy's speech, "Reaching Broadband Nirvana," never broached the topic of BPL's potential to interfere with other radio services. Recently, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) <<http://www.ntia.doc.gov>>--which regulates spectrum allocated to federal government users--expressed "broad concerns" about interference to government users and launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. In his letter, Sumner reminded Abernathy that the radio spectrum is a precious natural resource.

"To squander that resource simply to add a redundant, unnecessary, and relatively poorly performing 'last mile' connection for consumers, is unconscionable," he said. Sumner expressed the hope that Abernathy will give the League an early opportunity to explain its BPL concerns to her in person.

In her remarks to the UPLC gathering, Abernathy contended that it's been regulatory restraint rather than heavy-handed regulation that has allowed

nascent platforms such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS) to become competitively viable. "When the Commission completes this rulemaking," she said, "I expect that we will eliminate many existing rules and substantially modify others; the central question is the degree of regulation that will remain during the transition to a more robustly competitive market."

Individuals may e-mail Abernathy via her FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/mail.html>> or directly <kabernat@fcc.gov>. The text of her prepared remarks also is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-239079A1.doc>.

The League's initial 120-page package of comments and technical exhibits <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>> and its reply comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/reply-comments-index.htm>> are available on the ARRL Web site. Additional information and BPL video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>.

To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

To date, more than 4600 comments--many from the Amateur Radio community--have been filed in response to the FCC's BPL NOI. They are available for viewing via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

September Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:50 PM by President **K8SIX**. Twenty-three members and guests present.

Congrats to **K8RF**, a new grandfather of five weeks.

K8NA knows of a 40" Rohn tower in Plymouth, free, needs to be taken down. Contact Ted for more information.

K8ZX has a Gap Titan vertical antenna available for \$100.00

W8AP has three power transformers (heavy) and two 29' aluminum tubes (B17 wing spars?) for sale.

N8CQA, our Treasurer reports a September first balance of \$713.14. He also reminds us that dues are due..... \$15.00.

Tonight's program features several DVD offerings. The first was a video made by **W1RFI** from the ARRL demonstrating the effect of BPL at various frequencies on an HF mobile rig. Suffice it to say that BPL will make HF operating difficult if not impossible, for any Hams in close proximity to power lines.

The second DVD was provided by **CT1EEB** of his operations from Timor Leste. He showed various World Food Program Hams who operated during the year 2000. Because of fighting by rebels, this was a very dangerous place to operate from. The second video showed operations during July of 2000 for IOTA EU=175, Tercera Island. Several operators activated various islands including CU3, CU5 and CU7.

The final DVD was another excellent presentation produced by **9V1YC** of the WRTC 2002 and the July IARU

Championship. The Finns did an excellent job of providing relatively equal competitive stations for the delegate contesters. Thanks to Nokia phones, they were able to provide real-time scoring. Great video!

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

AC8W, Secretary

Logbook of the World

The long-awaited Logbook of the World (LoTW) as of September 15 is up and running! The October, 2003 issue of QST Magazine has a detailed description provided by Wayne Mills, **N7NG**.

To get started you will need to:

- 1) Download the *TrustedQSL* Software from the LoTW web site.
- 2) Submit a request for a digital certificate.
- 3) Use the certificate to "sign" files that are in either ADIF or Cabrillo format.
- 4) Submit the files via e-mail or via the LoTW web page.

More details are available at: www.arrl.org/lotw

There will be no charge to *submit* logs. However, there will be a per QSO charge for each credit used. The amount of this charge is not available at this point but it will be less than transporting paper QSL cards.

You will need a computer that uses either *Windows* or *Linux* operating systems. Macintosh is not now but will eventually be supported.

traditional paper cards will *always* be accepted.

BPL Disaster!

Any club member attending our September meeting can tell you what type of interference to expect should BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) proponents be successful. The video provided by the ARRL graphically depicted the consequences. You may download your own copy of this video at: www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video

The ARRL made this video this past summer during actual field testing on location in four different states. Signal levels on a typical Amateur Radio transceiver ran as high as 30 dB over S9. Obviously, this would completely eliminate any weak signal communications between even well equipped amateur stations. The League stated that with the results noted it will "lead inescapably to the conclusion that BPL will, if deployed, create widespread harmful interference."

ARRL President James Haynie, **W5JBP** has said that BPL, if deployed, would represent "spectrum pollution" on a level "difficult to imagine." These comments were made after viewing the video mentioned above. Australian Amateurs came to similar conclusions and referred to it as "massive interference" after reviewing BPL testing "down-under."

The ARRL is soliciting donations from Radio Amateurs and other interested parties. Obviously, a substantial "war chest" will be needed to fight against efforts to implement BPL. If you can help, check the ARRL web site for more information.

SEMDXA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

South Eastern Michigan DX Association (SEMDXA)

Date: _____

Application for new membership _____ or Application for renewal _____ (check one)

Full membership _____ or Associate membership _____ (check one) Dues: \$15.00 annually

(See SEMDXA website for membership requirements)

Present Call Sign: _____ Previous Call Sign: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEMDXA

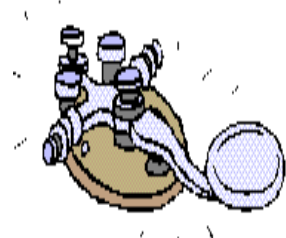
Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:

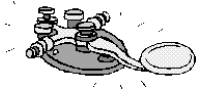
Leon Switzer, Treasurer

427 Jeffrey Avenue

Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

NOTE: TO RECEIVE THE CLUB NEWSLETTER "THE LONG PATH" YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!





October 2003

SEMDXA Monthly Planner



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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